



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

PROJECT HENDON – STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE OVERVIEW

2022-01-20 // 1000 HOURS

The purpose of this report is to provide an intelligence update regarding the FREEDOM CONVOY 2022 and OPERATION BEARHUG, a series of Canada-wide slow-rolling protests scheduled for 2022-01-22 to 2022-01-29.

KEY INFORMATION:

1. The FREEDOM CONVOY 2022 and OPERATION BEARHUG will almost certainly disrupt the movement of vehicular traffic and goods on Canadian highways and, possibly, at ports of entry along the border with the United States.
2. Some participants in these convoys may attempt to disrupt the business of government at both the provincial and federal level by blocking access to government legislatures and Parliament.

Background

On 2022-01-15, the Canadian government implemented a requirement for Canadian tractor-trailer drivers returning from the United States to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if they wish to avoid quarantine and testing for COVID-19 upon re-entry to Canada. American truck drivers who are unvaccinated will be turned back at the border. The vaccination requirement has been met with opposition resulting in the organization of slow-rolling blockades on major Canadian highways, including at or near border points, designated as "FREEDOM CONVOY 2022" and "OPERATION BEARHUG".

The intent of these actions is to impede the movement of traffic and goods in Canada and, possibly, to disrupt the business of government at the provincial and federal levels, in order to compel the Canadian government to lift all COVID-19-related mandates and restrictions.

Information

The information in this report is current to 2022-01-20 at 1000 hours.

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The available information indicates that a series of slow-rolling protests are planned from British Columbia to Nova Scotia from 2022-01-22 to 2022-01-29, when most of the convoy is scheduled to arrive in Ottawa. Conflicting information indicates that the start date for the trucks from British Columbia will actually be 2022-01-23.

The information indicates that in addition to this initiative, smaller slow-rolling protests will begin on 2022-01-23 on roadways leading away from points of entry along the border between the United States (US) and Canada.

Open source research has identified a Facebook page titled "Freedom Convoy 2022". As of 2022-01-19, the page had received 20,594 "likes" and was being followed by 24,873 people. All of the comments on this Facebook page expressed support for this event. The number of people in Ontario supporting this event, and the number of people who may participate in it as drivers or as spectators, is unknown.

The Facebook page notes that the purpose of the convoy is to compel the federal government to rescind the vaccine requirement for tractor-trailer drivers. Entries on the page encourage people to join the convoy in their own vehicles. They also indicate that the organizers expect hundreds of thousands of vehicles to participate in the convoy. However, at least one social media post indicates that 36,000 trucks will participate.

Aside from the main convoy, truck drivers are also encouraged to park their trucks wherever they happen to be on 2022-01-23 in order to impede traffic and the movement of goods, or to conduct smaller slow-rolling protests at border crossings. Some organizers also appear to be encouraging local "mini convoys" for drivers who are not able to join the convoy to Ottawa.

Open source research also identified the Facebook page "Freedom Convoy 2022 Support". The purpose of this page is to organize logistical support, such as meals and accommodation, for convoy participants. The information on the page shows that it has 915 members.

Information from the OPP [REDACTED] indicates that some organizers are promoting the event as a safe, lawful, and peaceful protest, other individuals appear to be advocating aggressive tactics, including potentially blocking Parliament once they reach Ottawa or "locking down" government buildings by parking their trucks outside provincial government buildings for extended periods of time. Open source research has identified some social media posts that indicate that the convoy will surround and block access to the City of Ottawa and to Parliament until the federal government lifts all COVID-19-related mandates and restrictions.

Open source research also indicates that local rallies continue to be organized in communities, some with minimal information publicly available ahead of time.

Areas of potential disagreement amongst event organizers include the date that the convoy will proceed through Toronto. The available information suggests that this may occur on both 2022-01-27 and 2022-01-28.

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Another area of disagreement appears to be whether to have supporters attend highway overpasses and bridges, including bridges at ports of entry from the US, in order to delay traffic. One organizer of the convoys has indicated that they do not support this or any other illegal tactic.

[REDACTED] that there may be some interest by individuals in the US who may wish to join the noted convoys.

Further, [REDACTED] that there does not yet appear to be an exit strategy for departing Ottawa: the intent appears to be to remain in Ottawa until all COVID-19-related mandates and restrictions are lifted.

A GoFundMe page created on 2022-01-15 to solicit and process financial donations to support convoy participants had raised almost \$412,000 by the morning of 2022-01-19, or more than \$100,000 daily. The stated goal was to raise \$500,000. A review of this page on 2022-01-20 at 0800 hours indicated that the fundraising goal had been changed to \$700,000. Of this, almost \$571,000 had been raised, an increase of more than \$100,000 within 24 hours.

Information regarding the routes indicates that vehicles from British Columbia, Quebec, and Nova Scotia will be joining convoys in Ontario. The expected routes and dates of the convoys within Ontario as of 2022-01-19 may be found in Appendix "A" to this report. These dates are subject to change.

[REDACTED] that as of 2022-01-19 at 1655 hours, two small convoys are planned to depart Cornwall via Highway 138 to the westbound Highway 417, one each on Friday 2022-01-28 and Saturday 2022-01-29.

Assessment:

The noted convoys will almost certainly disrupt the movement of vehicular traffic and goods in Ontario and strain the capacity of law enforcement in the province. Supporters of the initiative may impede vehicular traffic at the local level.

It is also possible that some participants of the convoys may attempt to disrupt the workings of government at both the provincial and federal levels.

The large number of groups that are publicly giving online support to this initiative; the large number of people "liking" or following the FREEDOM CONVOY 2022 Facebook page; and the amount of funds raised in the space of four days, suggests that the convoys have support with some Canadians. Anecdotal information also suggests that

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the convoys also have supporters in the United States. It is unknown what impact, if any, this may have on the number of participants in the noted convoys. Although the federal vaccination requirements for the trucking industry prohibits unvaccinated American truck drivers from crossing the border, it is possible that some supporters from the US may attend in private vehicles. However, this cannot be confirmed at this time based on the available information.

The available information suggests that the convoys may comprise thousands of tractor-trailers. It is possible that a large number of smaller vehicles, including private vehicles, may join them.

Online indicators of attendance at a given event are usually inflated, with fewer people actually participating. The noted convoys may be an exception. Although the available information is insufficient to predict the number of vehicles or individuals who may participate in, or support the convoys along the routes, the success of the fundraising initiative indicates that many people are not just ideologically invested, but are also financially invested. This suggests that these convoys could see a greater proportion of the online support translate into real-life support than might otherwise be expected.

Despite the information indicating that some organizers are aiming for a lawful and peaceful event, the possibility that a lone actor or small groups of individuals may decide to engage in, or encourage, direct action or unlawful activity that presents a public safety threat cannot be excluded.

In addition to the convoys themselves, police of jurisdiction resources could be stretched if rallies are organized at the local level to coincide with the arrival of the convoys in a given community.

Although the stated intent of some convoy participants is to remain at Parliament Hill until the government rescinds all COVID-19-related restrictions and mandates, this goal is likely to prove unrealistic in the long term. However, even a small number of tractor trailers parked at Parliament Hill will almost certainly be disruptive in the short term.

Please send all information and/or intelligence regarding relevant suspicious incidents or acts of criminal extremism to the following Project Hendon intake email address:

OPP.Project.Hendon@opp.ca

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Appendix "A" – FREEDOM CONVOY Expected Routes and Dates

Windsor to Kingston – 2022-01-28:

- Departing Windsor at 0530 hrs
- Scheduled stops in Chatham (0630 hrs); London (0800 hrs); Drumbo (1000 hrs); Port Hope (1400 hrs)
- Arriving Kingston 1700 hrs

Sarnia to Kingston – 2022-01-28:

- Departing Sarnia 0700 hrs
- Scheduled stops in London (0800 hrs); Drumbo (1000 hrs); Port Hope (1400 hrs)
- Arriving Kingston 1700 hrs

Fort Erie to Kingston – 2022-01-28:

- Departing Fort Erie 0730 hrs
- Scheduled stops in "Niagara" ¹ (0800 hrs); Hamilton (0930 hrs); Port Hope (1400 hrs)
- Arriving Kingston 1700 hrs

Toronto to Kingston – 2022-01-28:

- Departing Toronto 1200 hrs
- Scheduled stops in Port Hope (1400 hrs)
- Arriving Kingston (1700 hrs)

Information obtained by the [REDACTED] suggests that part, or all, of the "Southern Convoy" from Windsor, Sarnia, Fort Erie and Toronto may actually arrive in Kingston on 2021-01-27 and not 2021-01-28.

¹ This is assumed to mean Niagara Falls.



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Cornwall to Ottawa - 2022-01-29:

- Departing Cornwall 1000 hrs
- Arriving Ottawa 1200 hrs

Vankleek Hill to Ottawa – 2022-01-29:

- Departing Vankleek Hill 1030 hrs
- Arriving Ottawa 1200 hrs

Kingston to Ottawa – 2022-01-29:

- Departing Kingston 0830 hrs
- Scheduled stop in Spencerville (1000 hrs)
- Arriving Ottawa 1200 hrs

Kenora to Thunder Bay - 2022-01-26:

- Departing Kenora 0900 hrs
- Scheduled stop in Ignace (1200 hrs)
- Arriving Thunder Bay 1600 hrs

Thunder Bay to Sault Ste. Marie – 2022-01-27:

- Departing Thunder Bay 0700 hrs
- Scheduled stops in Terrance Bay (0830 hrs); Wawa (1530 hrs)
- Arriving Sault Ste. Marie 1900 hrs

Sault Ste. Marie to Arnprior – 2022-01-28:

- Departing Sault Ste Marie 0600 hrs
- Scheduled stops in Blind River (0800 hrs); Sudbury (1030 hrs); North Bay (1300 hrs); Pembroke (1630 hrs)
- Arriving Arnprior 1800 hrs

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Arnprior to Ottawa – 2022-01-29:

- Departing Arnprior 1100 hrs
- Arriving Ottawa 1200 hrs

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Date:	20 January 2022	

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